TL 4317

Lisbon, ... , 1988

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 23rd, 1988.

May I assure you, Your Excellency, that we have also in mind the need to achieve a comprehensive and internationally acceptable settlement to the question of East Timor. With that purpose, we follow with great interest and expectation the continuing dialogue in which have been engaged the Permanent Representatives of both countries in New York, under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations.

As reflected in the last progress report of the Secretary General (8 September 1987), the possibility of a Portuguese Parliamentary delegation undertaking a visit to East Timor, with

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a view to obtaining first-hand information to East Timor, was being considered in those talks.

Taking into consideration this objective, and in a constructive and open spirit, bearing in mind the need to uphold the legitimate rights and identity of the East Timorese, the Portuguese Parliament instructed me to transmit you its readiness to send a delegation to visit East Timor, provided that the two sides can previously reach agreement, through the above mentionned Permanent Representatives in New York, on the terms, modalities and timing of the visit, as stated in your letter.

This response and the eventuality of the aforesaid visit to take place will, in no way,be constructed as representing a change in the well known position of Portugal concerning both the question of East Timor and the statute of this territory.

We hope that the visit under consideration, if it will appear in the end as possible, can contribute to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement to the question of East Timor, in accordance with the relevant principles and resolutions of the United Nations .

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Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my hi consideration.

Yours sincerely

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H. E.
M. Kharis Suhud
Speaker of the Dewan
Perwakilan Rakyat of the
Republic of Indonesia
JAKARTA